

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, May 15, 2007.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: This is to formally notify you, pursuant to rule VIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, that a judicial subpoena for documents, issued by the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia, has been delivered to my Virginia Beach, Virginia District Office.

After consulting with the Office of General Counsel, I will make the determinations required by rule VIII.

Sincerely,

THELMA DRAKE.

POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS CENTERS NEEDED IN UNDERSERVED AREAS

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Let me take the opportunity, Mr. Speaker, to acknowledge the crisis that many of us see occurring with the brave men and women that return from fighting in Iraq and fighting in Afghanistan.

We have just finished a very thoughtful and collaborative effort to address the serious questions of our military and the Department of Defense, and the good news is that this bill has impacted or emphasized more on the needs of families.

I look forward to working with this body to develop more post-traumatic stress centers in underserved areas where military personnel will be returning to their homes. We already know the dastardly conditions that our military face in Iraq and Afghanistan, the long hours and tediousness of the DMZ and many other places around the world.

Our military personnel are suffering, and I look forward to working with this committee, the Veterans Affairs Committee, to ensure that centers like the Riverside Medical Center in Houston, Texas, can be a site for post-traumatic stress for our soldiers returning home so that their physical needs and their mental needs can be serviced. I look forward to this.

I believe we can do better by our soldiers as we move forward on helping them improve their mental health.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. POE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

COMMENDING SOUTHWEST AIRLINES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CONAWAY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Southwest Airlines and their 30 years of service to the Permian Basin. For the past three decades, Southwest Airlines has provided friendly and affordable air services in and out of Midland International Airport. With over 13 daily departures to six cities in three States, the people of the Permian Basin are free to move about the country.

On my many flights on Southwest Airlines, I am always struck by the friendly, good natured flight attendants, agents and pilots that make up the employees of this airline. There is an unmistakable sense of pride that comes with working with Southwest that can be seen in the faces of the pilots to the ground crew.

I am honored to represent the many employees of Southwest Airlines that are headquartered at Midland International Airport and look forward to 30 more years of friendly and accommodating service.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. JONES of North Carolina addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

OPPOSE THE SECOND CHANCE ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, as always, it is such an honor to be part of this body when you know the sacrifices that have been made by so many just to allow us to be here at this time in history.

There is a defense bill that we will be talking about some in the next 60 minutes, but in leading up to that, I wanted to address a bill that was on the suspension calendar earlier this week and was pulled from the suspension calendar, and I have been told it probably will be coming up very soon.

Like so many things that have been done in this body that has unintended consequences, the Second Chance Act is very well intentioned. As a former

judge, I know well that we have got to do a better job of rehabilitating, of educating, with drug treatment and alcohol treatment for those that are incarcerated in our prisons. There is just no question that we should do a better job with those things.

Unfortunately, this well-meaning bill, the Second Chance Act, goes so far beyond what is helpful. This bill will provide more benefits to felons than are available to those risking their lives in the service of our United States military.

For example, this bill apparently will provide over \$360 million. I say apparently will provide over that amount, because one provision says "such sums as may be necessary." There is no way to know how much money that may be. But, in any event, this bill, for example, seems to leave medical care potentially unending after confinement.

I realize as a Republican I was in the minority in our Judiciary Committee hearing, so I attempted to limit the medical care to 6 months after a criminal was released from prison for the extent of the medical care. That was voted down by the majority, who believed that we should leave it open-ended.

I was in the United States Army for 4 years, and I can tell you that unless you retire with over 20 years of active military service or you are disabled as a result of your military service, you have no medical care waiting for you at the end of your service. That means if a military member who serves less than 20 years wants a chance at free medical, he will need to commit a serious enough crime to get him locked up.

When a military member is sent to serve on one of the many unaccompanied tours of duty, his family suffers greatly, particularly if this is a Reservist or a National Guard member. However, under this Second Chance Act, which is really more of an "Infinite Chance Act," we will provide taxpayer dollars to help with transportation for an inmate's family to get to and from the prison. Grant dollars are there for that.

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If you are in the military on an unaccompanied tour and you would like to have your children nearby, you are out of luck. However, if you are a confined felon, under this bill there will be tax dollars in the way of grants to pay for nurseries or preschools at the prison so you can have your children close to you.

If you are a U.S. servicemember away from home and long to provide your family or your children the technology to ease the distance between you and to ease the loneliness, you either must reach into your small amount of pay, or you could commit a felony and get locked up because there are millions of dollars in this Second Chance bill for grants for technology or tapes or DVD or players, even cell phones, things that help bridge the distance.